



TESTIMONY OF PAMELA MAUTTE, CT PREVENTION NETWORK

in favor of

H.B. No. 5151 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING HOOKAH LOUNGES

before the

Public Safety & Security Public Hearing, February 18, 2014

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety & Security Public Hearing, my name is Pamela Mautte and I am the Director of the Greater Valley Substance Abuse Action Council and a member of the Connecticut Prevention Network. I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 5151- An Act Concerning Hookah Lounges.

The proposed bill would provide municipalities with oversight over hookah lounges, a business that currently goes unregulated. By implementing regulations on these businesses we can allow local communities to be proactive. While these establishments provide services for patrons, regulations can help for the following reasons:

- Ensuring that tobacco is not being consumed or sold to those under the age of 18
- Ensuring that it is not marketed to youth as a safe and cool alternative to smoking
- Ensuring patrons under the age of 21 are not consuming alcoholic beverages in the establishments that allow you to bring your own beverage
- Having posted operating hours to ensure public safety and that these clubs do not become "after hour" clubs which can become nuisances for many communities. The nuisances include but are not limited to underage drinking, fights, sexual assaults, and theft.
- Allow health officials to monitor for sanitary safety

Therefore, local communities should have control over these lounges to help keep their communities safe for everyone and under age patrons from engaging in risky behaviors.